

# RESOLUTION OFFERED IN THE SENATE TO ACT ON THE GOLD MINE LETTERS

Employees at the Capitol and that it had been pretty well distributed in other parts of Washington. One story ran to the effect that some of the Newman nuggets had been handed about in the Senate cloak room, as specimens of what the mine was producing.

The photographs of Mining Engineer Williams' optimistic letter as reproduced in this story caused a stir in the Senate from the beginning of the day session.

It was not long after the Senate convened at 11 o'clock before Senators La Follette and Chilton were engaged in earnest conversation over a copy of this story. Senator La Follette, who is the ranking Republican member of the Census Committee and whose name had appeared on the letterheads, was plainly worked up and gesticulated emphatically.

It was at that conference that the Senator from Wisconsin informed Senator Chilton that he intended to introduce a resolution. In the meantime little groups of Democrats had gathered about the chamber discussing the developments. Senator Overman and Senator Chilton held several conferences and finally arrangement was made for the introduction of the resolution.

## The Resolution.

Here is the text of the resolution: Resolved, That a special committee of five members of the Senate be appointed by the President of the Senate and that said committee is hereby empowered and directed to make a thorough and complete investigation into the use of the stationery of the United States Senate Committee on the Census and the United States Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, and the so-called Gold Hill Consolidated Company, and of the sending of an employee of the United States Treasury to make an investigation of and report upon the property of the Gold Hill Consolidated Company, and any other matters touching upon or relating to the use of property of the United States, or employees of the United States Government, in connection with the promotion or business of said Gold Hill Consolidated Company. Said committee, or any sub-committee thereof, is hereby empowered and directed during the session or recess of Congress, to require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, documents and papers, to take the testimony of witnesses under oath, to obtain documents, papers and other information from any of the departments or bureaus of the Government; to employ stenographers to take and make a record of all evidence taken by the committee, and to keep a record of its proceedings; to have such evidence, record and other matter required by the committee printed and suitably bound by the chairman of the committee, or any other members thereof; may administer oaths to witnesses. Subpoenas for witnesses shall be issued under the signature of the chairman of the committee, or the chairman of any sub-committee thereof. All hearings by and before said committee, or any sub-committee thereof, shall be open to the public. The expense of such investigation shall be paid for out of the funds for the contingent expenses of the Senate. Senator Overman introduced the resolution first sent the clerk's desk a copy of this story, with the request that the clerk read to the Senate the Washington despatch detailing the use of the stationery of the committee for the exploitation of the mining property.

## Mr. Overman's Statement.

After the reading of THE SUN's Washington despatch Senator Overman arose and said:

"Mr. President, while so far as I can see there is no reflection whatever upon my integrity contained in that article, I desire to introduce a resolution asking the Senate to investigate the matter thoroughly because otherwise some one may say that there is some reflection in the article which has just been read."

"So far as the statement concerning letters copied is concerned I wish to say that there were four copies taken by my lady stenographer, who is very much distressed about it. He said that one evening he saw a copy of the Newman letter to my office and asked her to make copies of a certain letter, which she did, thinking there was no harm in her doing so, as she has frequently done the same thing for other parties."

"People from the State frequently come there and have letters copied, and she copied the letter in this instance, as I have said before, thinking there was no harm in it. I know nothing in the world about it. I have never advised anybody to buy any stock in this gold mine. I have never in any way attempted to promote the sale of any stock. I know something about the mine because it is situated in my county. I have been there several times. I know that prior to the time that the California that county was the foremost gold field of the United States and because of the immense quantities of gold there and in surrounding counties the United States Government located at the city of Charlotte. Subsequently the mint was abolished and there was established what was known as an assay office, which continued until 1910, when the assay office was also abolished."

"Some time ago this man Newman came down there and watered the mine, began a crosscutting and claimed that he had found some of the old veins that had been lost. I may say in passing that a great geologist, as I will be prepared to show at the proper time, says this is a wonderful gold field."

## "A Wonderful Gold Property."

"I refer to Prof. Emmons, who spoke of it as a wonderful gold property, and I want to say that the records of the mint in Charlotte show that \$5,000,000 were taken out of this mine. I did not ask for the establishment of the assay office at Charlotte, but some parties in my State did ask for the reestablishment of the assay office there."

"We have other mines down there. They have not been paying in great quantities because those mining the mines have not gone down deep enough. Mr. Williams was requested by some one in my State to ask for the reestablishment of the assay office at Charlotte. I have never attempted to secure its reestablishment."

"The Director of the Mint sent an expert down there to investigate as to whether this mine would pay enough money to warrant the reestablishment of the assay office. It has the machinery and all the equipment and only needs some one to run the assay office, but I did not think the mine had been sufficiently developed for me to ask the committee to reestablish the assay office."

"After I saw a very rosy report concerning the mine and after a talk with the man Williams, who is the chairman and with whom I had never talked before, in which he said the mine was worth about \$60,000 and the stock was selling at 40 cents, I did buy about \$2,000 worth of stock."

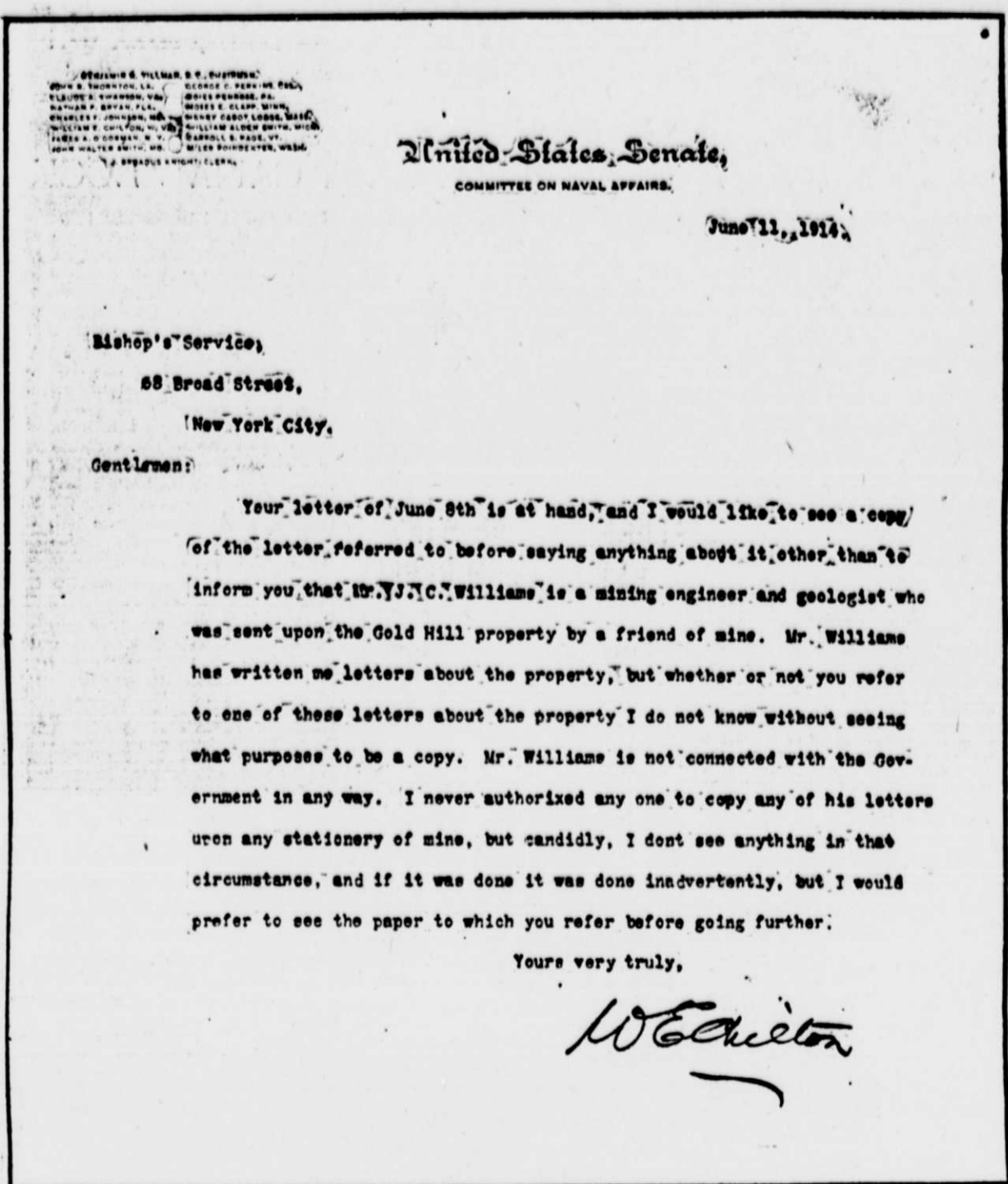
"That is all I have in it and I have done nothing to promote the stock or assist in its promotion in any way whatever. Down in my office the letter paper of the committee of which I am chairman was used without my knowledge and consent by a poor woman who was in the office temporarily."

"Now I submit the resolution which I send to the desk and which I desire to have introduced and see whether there is any want of integrity on the part of anybody in connection with this mine."

## Mr. Chilton is Humorous.

As soon as Mr. Overman had taken his seat and before the clerk had begun to read the resolution Senator Chilton, who had been listening intently to Mr. Overman's statement, arose. He said:

"Mr. President, inasmuch as my name



Facsimile of letter written by Senator Chilton on stationery of the Committee on Naval Affairs.

is used in connection with this matter I want to ask the indulgence of the Senate for just a moment. All of this goes to show what will happen to a Democrat when he gets to fooling with the gold standard. If he would stick to the old 16 to 1 he would not have any one question his motives. [Laughter]

"Mr. President, some time ago—I am not accurate in remembering dates and time—some time ago my attention was called by some one, probably by Mr. Williams, whom I met here, to a wonderful new discovery which had been made in North Carolina."

"I want to say that I will yield second place to nobody in having money invested in gold mines. I have some in holes in Washington, in California, in Colorado, in Georgia, in South Carolina, in Virginia, in North Carolina and probably in several other States."

"All my life I have fostered the idea that possibly I might get out of my habit of not having enough to pay my bills by making a strike in a gold mine. They have always looked attractive to me and inasmuch as I have so much money in that kind of holes I want to go to that kind of a hole to get out the money which I have invested."

## Starts the Investigation.

"I felt interested in the statement made and after consulting with some friends in West Virginia who knew something about these matters I sent Mr. Williams, or rather a friend of mine sent Mr. Williams, down there. He came here to Washington to see me and I gave him a letter to some one, I believe to Mr. Montgomery, whom the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. Overman, knows very well, and told him that he wanted this man to examine the property. He made a report which I have shown to several people, and later he wrote me this letter along the latter part of May."

"One day Mr. Williams came to me—I think it was to me—he came to my office and said he wanted to see me. That is all I know about it. Recently I heard that some one had, upon the Census Committee paper, a copy of that letter of J. C. Williams, this expert."

"Now the stenographer in my office tells me that Mr. Williams came in with that letter and asked him to make some copies, and the most convenient paper he had was the paper of the committee and he made him several copies. He did it in the open; there was no secret about it; there was no concealment of anything."

"In other words, Mr. President, substantially the truth is told about the matter by the reporter so far as I am concerned. It is true it is told in a rather flippant way that some enemies might take to reflect upon me, but in the main, reading it in cold type, he has told it as it occurred."

## Asks for an Investigation.

"If that were all I would not dignify a thing of this kind any more than I would dignify any other letter that anybody might choose to copy and flaunt around in improper places, but I realize that there are other Senators on that committee with me and other Senators on this committee of which the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. Overman, is chairman, and I want to ask the Senate promptly to make an investigation of this matter and see what the facts are."

"If they are as stated in there and if it seems that any of us is subject to censure I am here to take my medicine, but I want the Senate and the country to know the actual facts."

"Immediately after Senator Chilton had finished his speech the resolution was referred to the Committee on Contingent Expenses, which is the usual course. The committee will probably act on the resolution tomorrow."

John Skelton Williams issued a statement in which he said that a New York

morning newspaper had sought to involve the Treasury Department in the exploitation of a gold mine enterprise. Compromiser Williams added:

"The insinuation that the Treasury Department or any one connected with it has taken any part whatever in the exploitation of a mining enterprise in the South or has exercised any favoritism in investigating such an enterprise is wholly unjustified and without foundation."

"Some months ago while I was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in charge of the office to North Carolina, Mr. Newman, who was neither an old school nor an intimate friend, but who came to the Department introduced as a man of responsibility and experience in the financial business, called at the Department and requested that the assay office at Charlotte, N. C., which had been closed for less than a year, should be reopened for the purpose of handling the bullion of a gold mine of that State in which he was interested."

"I referred him to the Director of the Mint, who felt justified in sending an employee of the office to North Carolina to examine the property. I believe Mr. Newman, who was neither an old school nor an intimate friend, but who came to the Department introduced as a man of responsibility and experience in the financial business, called at the Department and requested that the assay office at Charlotte, N. C., which had been closed for less than a year, should be reopened for the purpose of handling the bullion of a gold mine of that State in which he was interested."

"He reported that the property was not sufficiently developed to justify the reopening of the assay office and the petitioner was so informed. The inspection which was made was made on the request of the president of the mining company and not at the instance or for the accommodation of a United States surveyor for any other Government official."

"I know nothing of J. C. Williams, mining geologist, who is alleged to have made an examination of the property. In fact I never heard of him."

"The SUN's Washington despatch to-day stated specifically that John Skelton Williams had said that he sent a stenographer to investigate the property of Newman mine solely for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not it would warrant the reopening of the assay office and that the Government concluded after examination that such action was not warranted. Mr. Newman was authority for the statement that John Skelton Williams was a friend of his."

## CHILTON KNEW OF LETTER.

Senator said last week that there was nothing in it.

United States Senator W. E. Chilton, whose stationery as chairman of the Committee on the Census was used for multiplying copies of a most glowing report concerning the properties of Gold Hill Consolidated, was informed last week of the existence of the letter and did not seem concerned over the fact that the letter was being circulated among curb brokers.

The fact that the letter was being handed about in Wall Street and that it bore the letterhead of the United States Senate Committee on the Census was laid before Senator Chilton, and he replied he did not "see anything in the circumstance."

The news was conveyed to him by William E. Bishop, proprietor of Bishop's Service, a commercial agency at 68 Broad street, that supplies information to business men. The letter which Mr. Bishop wrote to Senator Chilton on June 8 follows:

"We have before us what purports to be a copy of a letter addressed to and signed by J. C. Williams and which speaks in the most glowing terms of the mining properties of the Gold Hill Consolidated Company, who have properties located at Gold Hill, N. C., near Salisbury. The letter is addressed to you and ostensibly for the purpose of giving you information as to the great value of the property. The letter is duplicated on the letterheads of the Committee on Census of the United States Senate. This letter is being freely circulated apparently with a view of boosting the price of the stock of the Gold

hill Consolidated, which is being traded in on the curb market here."

"Would you kindly inform us as to whether or not you authorized such a letter to be written on the letterhead of the United States Senate and if you authorized the multiplying of this letter for the purpose of circulation among curb brokers?"

"Would you kindly also inform us as to what information you have regarding this mining property and any information you have regarding J. C. Williams, who is supposed to be a mining geologist, and in what capacity and how is he interested in the reporting to you on the Gold Hill property?"

"We wish the above information to give to investors who seek information about such matters, and we are employed by the large financial institutions in New York for making such reports and as to our standing we refer you to any bank in New York city, and we also refer you to the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, who knows us."

Senator Chilton on June 11 addressed the following letter to Bishop's Service:

"Your letter of June 8 is at hand, and I would like to see a copy of the letter referred to before saying anything about it, other than to inform you that J. C. Williams is a mining engineer and geologist who was sent upon the Gold Hill property by a friend of mine. Mr. Williams has written me letters about the property, but whether or not you refer to one of these letters about the property I do not know without seeing what purposes to be a copy. Mr. Williams is not connected with the Government in any way. I never authorized any one to copy any of his letters upon any stationery of mine, but candidly, I don't see anything in that circumstance, and if it was done it was done inadvertently, but I would prefer to see the paper to which you refer before going any further."

Yours very truly,  
W. E. Chilton

Great Interest in the Street.

The publication in THE SUN yesterday morning of the copy of Williams' letter to Senator Chilton, which was reproduced not only on stationery of the Committee on the Census, but also on paper of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, aroused great interest throughout Wall Street yesterday, and especially on the curb.

The letter was read with zest and there was much discussion concerning the Gold Hill property, whose boosting of the Gold Hill properties for years has been a subject of much interest.

There was much activity in the stock market on the morning of June 12, 1914, the par being \$5 a share, and dropped to 4, or more than 50 per cent. It rallied slightly in the course of the afternoon, closing at 4 1/2.

Inquiry for directors or officers of the Gold Hill Consolidated was made at the offices of the company on the twelfth floor of 30 Broad street. The only person who was seen was a dark-eyed, handsome stenographer, who announced himself as cashier and authorized to make a statement.

He said that Mr. Newman was in Salisbury, as also was Mr. Gregory. He had this to say about the copies of the letter written to Senator Chilton:

"I never saw any of the copies of the letter written on the stationery of the Senate Committee on Census. I did see a copy of the letter—the substance of both letters is exactly the same—written on Senator Overman's stationery. It was sent to us for the private information of the directors of the company and not for distribution either among stockholders or investors."

"None of the copies ever was given out at this office by me. That is a fact. Of course I am only here to register stock. I do not think it is true that copies of the letter were given to curb brokers."

"It is not true that the receipts of the Gold Hill Consolidated, which is the registered company and which is the only one of the old Gold Hill company, were not negotiable. Those receipts were dealt in on the curb. They were issued in 1909 and stock for those receipts were issued last year."

Further investigation among curb brokers showed that a number of the copies of the Chilton letter were in circulation. Mr. Bishop had one and several brokers said that copies of the letter had been obtained by sending messenger boys to the offices of the Gold Hill Consolidated.

The latter, however, did not seem to have obtained an extensive circulation. Copies of the Greenback Daily News also were given to persons who made inquiries at the offices of the company concerning the value of the properties owned by the company.

Continued from First Page

Charles A. Towne of Minnesota, now of New York, is striving to convey to the Administration through the medium of a White House interview.

The silver haired statesman has thus far been denied an interview with President Wilson, but he is still engaged in an interesting effort to pursue a policy of watchful waiting at the portals of the Executive Mansion.

## TWO ISSUES CAUSE TANGLE.

U. S. Selections for Provisional President Are Considered.

By a Staff Correspondent of THE SUN. NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., June 15.—All developments here to-day pointed to a speedy end of the mediation proceedings one way or the other.

Gen. Carranza's note, long delayed, was received, but the Constitutional chief, while actually naming delegates to attend the peace conference, failed again to agree to an armistice, the very point that the mediators insist on before they will let him take part.

The delegates were unable to-day to reach any sort of agreement on a provisional President.

The men submitted by Washington are not approved of by the Huerta delegates, and it is said the latter will await a change of attitude by President Wilson and Secretary Bryan.

The third delay was the departure of Senator Naon, Minister of Argentina, for Harvard and Yale, where he will deliver speeches. This ties up the conferences until he returns on Monday.

Gen. Carranza's note contains the announcement that he has appointed three delegates to the mediation conference—Fernando Ilesias Calderon, Luis Cabrera and Jose Vasconcelos.

The three mediators at once replied, informing Gen. Carranza that his message contained no reference to the paragraph in their previous note relating to the declaration of an armistice.

The Carranza note follows:

Confidential agency of the Constitutional Government of Mexico, Mexico City, D. C., June 11, 1914.

The undersigned, special representative of the First Chief of the Constitutional army of Mexico, Don Venustiano Carranza, pursuant to instructions received, has the honor to transmit to your Excellencies the following communication received this day by telegraph:

"I have had the honor of receiving your courteous note dated at Niagara Falls the 2d instant, which you had the kindness to send me through Licentiate Rafael Zubaran. In said note you again seek fit to express to me your wish that as First Chief of the Constitutional army I appoint delegates to represent me at the conferences which are being held in that city in connection with the good offices you tendered the United States, Gen. Huerta and myself, to settle the international conflict existing between the United States and Mexico."

"Having accepted in principle as far back as April 29 last your good offices and as you are now awaiting the appointment of my commissioners, I have the honor to inform you that I appoint on my part as representatives of the First Chief of the Constitutional army under my command Messrs. Fernando Ilesias Calderon, Licentiate Luis Cabrera and Licentiate Jose Vasconcelos to attend as my delegates the conferences you are now holding, and at which it is sought to settle the international conflict which has arisen between the United States and the Mexican Republic."

"I would thank you to have the kindness to reply to this note in order that, in a proper case, I may give instructions to my representatives so that they may proceed to the city for the discharge of their mission duly authorized by me."

"I take pleasure in reiterating to you the assurances of my high and distinguished consideration."

The undersigned renews on this occasion to your Excellencies the plenipotentiaries of Brazil, Argentina and Chile, the assurances of his most distinguished consideration.

The answer of the mediators follows: The First Chief of the Constitutional army, Venustiano Carranza, Saltillo, Mexico.

We have the honor this day of receiving the communication which you addressed us through your representative, Mr. R. Zubaran Capmany, and with reference thereto we hasten to advise you of our fear that you have not duly considered the final paragraphs of the note of the 2d instant. We greet you with our highest consideration.

D. NA GAMA, Ambassador of Brazil. R. S. NAON, Minister of Argentina. E. SUAREZ MUJICA, Minister of Chile.

The Carranza message was read with little interest by those connected with the mediation conference. It was pointed out that the rebel leader merely reiterated statements made previously, and that he is careful to mention only the "international conflict" as a subject to be discussed here.

It was agreed here to-night that the departure of Senator Naon will be a great handicap for both mediators and delegates. Although Justice Lamar said to-night to THE SUN correspondent that informal conversations would probably be continued between the American and Mexican delegates, no full conferences will be held.

This setback comes at a time when the presence and the advice of the mediators is needed most. The Americans are still holding out for the candidates for provisional President who are being urged upon the Mexicans by President Wilson, while the Mexicans refuse even to consider these candidates. Without the presence of the mediators no further discussion between the delegates is possible.

The American delegates continued to-day their discussion with the mediators, but so far as could be learned to-night their efforts were entirely limited to urging the candidates of the Washington Government for the provisional Presidency.

Despite the messages transmitted yesterday to Washington, in which it was explained that the Mexican delegates would under no conditions endorse the men whose names were mentioned, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bryan have evidently not yielded an inch from their demand that these men must be accepted. Grave fear was expressed here to-night that this would mean the end of the conference within a few days.

After two hours of wrangling the American delegates left the conference room without having accomplished the slightest advance. They found the Mexican delegates as determined as ever to oppose the men favored by Washington.

They explained, according to well informed persons here, that their opposition was based not only on the views of Gen. Huerta but also on their personal convictions that the men named would offer no guaranty of future peace in Mexico.

After the conference Justice Lamar said:

"We are still dealing with the second plank in the plan. It relates to the provisional Government, and that inevitably leads to a discussion of personnel. We discussed both at great length to-day, but reached no agreement."

## REBELS ROUTED IN EIGHT DAYS BATTLE

Mexico City Hears Gen. Natera Lost Thousands of Men at Zacatecas.

## REBEL LEADER WOUNDED

Other Officers Killed or Prisoners—New Complaint Against Americans.

MEXICO CITY, June 15.—According to a long despatch received by the War Department from Gen. Medina Barron, Gen. Panfilo Natera, rival of Pancho Villa, has been overwhelmingly defeated by the Federalists in an eight days battle in Zacatecas.

The Constitutionalists have lost 3,000 men killed and wounded; Gen. Natera himself was seriously wounded, while others of his chiefs were killed or taken prisoner.

Gen. Barron telegraphs that with the arrival of Gen. Natera the Constitutionalists began their attacks upon the capital of the State, only to be repulsed by the Federal artillery which had been rushed up from Mexico city to strengthen the defenses. They returned again and again, suffering heavy losses each time, until after five days the situation was reversed and the Federalists themselves went forth.

They captured Juan Cabral, a rebel leader, and executed him. They killed Generals Caloca and Triana and other officers until the rebel army withdrew in disorder. Then they captured field guns, machine guns and a great quantity of ammunition.

The report was received with great rejoicing here. President Huerta immediately promoted Gen. Barron to the command of a division, while Gen. Blanquez, Minister of War, sent a message reading: "Hurrah for the national army."

Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza, who commanded at Tampico, has reached the capital with a loud grievance against Americans, whom he said, showed their leanings toward the rebels. He says that Americans at the Imperial Hotel fired on his soldiers, that other Americans in communication with the town carried the word to the rebels that his forces were about to give up the siege and that further when Gen. Gonzales made his final assault he had at least two guns off an American warship.

The American ships also so maneuvered that the Mexican warships could not assist in defending the city.

## REBELS HEAR OF DEFEAT.

Villa Said to Have Failed to Go to Aid of Natera.

EL PASO, June 15.—News of fighting in Zacatecas is scant from rebel sources, and consequently there is a general tendency to credit the reports from Mexico city that Gen. Natera and the rebel army under his command have been defeated.

That Gen. Natera is himself wounded and that Gen. Juan Cabral was captured and executed is flouted by the rebels, but there are persistent reports in Juarez that the Federal claims in this respect too are true.

That the defeat of Natera is due to Pancho Villa's failure to go to the front to the rescue of Natera is openly charged by some of the rebels.

Villa is known to have chafed at the action of Carranza in placing Natera in command of the troops at Zacatecas, and he has been heard to say that he did not disband his volunteers the regular military authorities would do it for him and he would be tried and executed as an enemy of the revolution.

## MAYTORENA BACKS DOWN.

Disbands Followers Under Threat of Trial and Execution.

EL PASO, June 15.—The dove of peace officially has returned to its cot in Hermosillo, capital of Sonora, according to advice received here by R. V. Piquera, diplomatic agent in the United States for the rebels. Civil Governor Maytorena has agreed to let the military authorities handle the military affairs of the State and confine himself strictly to the civil functions. He has also agreed to disarm the volunteers he had established in the State palace. It is reported.

The change in front on the part of Maytorena came after a long conference with Ignacio Bonillas, Carranza's Minister of Communications. Before his arrival Gen. Salvador Alvarado, military commander here, had warned Maytorena that he did not disband his volunteers the regular military authorities would do it for him and he would be tried and executed as an enemy of the revolution.

The rebels virtually admit that they were victorious in the battle of Zacatecas fighting.

Those in Juarez who censure Villa for failure to go to the relief of Natera declare he knew that if Natera was whipped he would then be called upon to take the place. In the event of success his laurels would be even greater in accordance with the degree of defeat suffered by Natera, they point out.

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